

Amendments to the Title:

Examiner suggests that the original title as filed be amended. Applicants hereby amend the title of the referenced application to: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING LOAD BALANCING ON A COMPUTER NETWORK BY FORWARDING REQUESTS TO AGENTS AND REMAPPING PORTS AND ADDRESSES OF THE REQUESTS (amended).

Amendments to the Specification:

The following paragraphs are hereby amended. Of those, paragraphs 32, 71, and 79 are amended in response to Examiner's objections due to informalities.

[0011] FIG. 2 illustrates one prior art method of assigning a user terminal to a selected agent. As shown in block 202, when the UT 102 first logs into the network 108, the dispatcher 115 reviews the traffic load assigned to each of the agents 120, 121, 122. The traffic load can include the number of other user terminals that are assigned to each of the agents 120, 121, and 122. The dispatcher then assigns a selected agent (i.e. agent 122) to the UT 102 in block 204. Thereafter, during the lifetime of the session in Block 206, in all subsequent occasions whenever the UT 102 logs onto the network 108, the selected agent 122 always handles the data traffic to and from the UT 102. The lifetime of the session varies. The session often lasts several weeks and can be terminated due to being "torn down" for various reasons. The gateway 104 can tear down a session that has not been used for a long period. The user terminal 102 can initiate a tear down and a new session due to various changes in the user terminal 102. The session can be torn down for many other reasons also.

[0032] FIG. 4 shows one embodiment of a network environment in which a mobile user terminal (or simply user terminal), such as described in FIG. 3 above, can be used. User terminal ~~400~~ 401 may be of any of the types of user terminal mentioned above, such as a mobile telephone. To facilitate explanation, the example of a mobile telephone is used at various points in the following description. As described herein, user terminal 401 is enabled to receive remotely stored hypermedia information, such as Wireless Markup Language (WML) documents, HTML documents, Compact HTML (cHTML) documents, Extensible Markup Language (XML) documents, or Handheld Device Markup Language (HDML) documents, from one or more network servers, shown as

network servers 416 and 420. Network Servers 416 and 420 may be, for example, conventional server-class computers, personal computers (PCs) or computer workstations. User terminal 401 has a display 402 and a keypad 403. The user terminal 401 can include a micro-browser capable of accessing and displaying hypermedia content, such as WML cards, HTML pages, or the like.

[0066] FIG. 7B illustrates another embodiment of determining the source address and the source port from a request that includes a WTLS handshake. There are two types of WTLS handshakes: a full WTLS handshake and an abbreviated WTLS handshake. A request is received that indicates a WTLS handshake from client computer in server in block 730. A session ID is extracted from a WTLS handshake in block 732. The session ID is correlated to a client ID in block 734. The client ID is then correlated to the source address and the source port in block 736.

[0071] When a response to a remapped request is received from an origin server such as a network server, the response must be remapped and forwarded to the user terminal. The response is received in the FEP because the request was remapped to the FEP. The received response is then remapped so that the origin server response source address is remapped to the FEP source address. The origin server response source port is also remapped to the FEP source port. The remapped response is then sent to the user terminal. Alternatively, if the request was remapped to the selected agent, then the origin response to the remapped request must be similarly remapped to the selected agent's source address and port.

[0079] ~~One of skill in the art will immediately recognize that the term "computer-readable medium/media" further encompasses a carrier wave that encodes a data signal.~~

In response to the Examiner's objection, **Figure 8** has been added and does not add any new matter.